

# ILLICIT DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS, 2011-2016

## British Columbia and Surrey

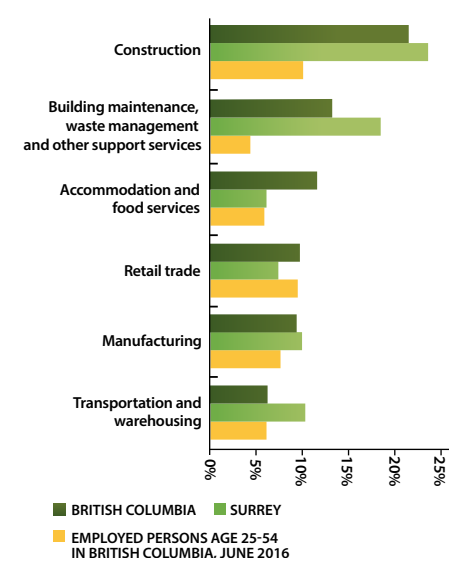
### Employment and Social Assistance

NUMBER OF YEARS EMPLOYED IN THE 5 YEARS PRIOR TO DEATH



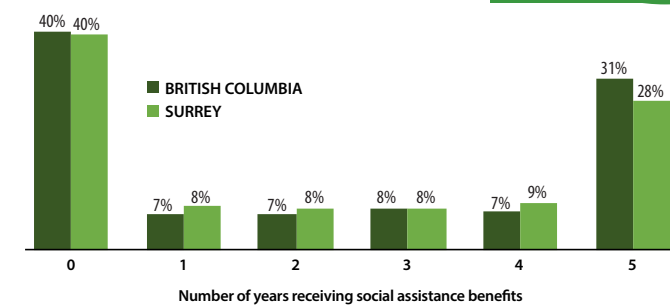
Approximately 3 in 10 decedents had **no earnings** in the 5 years prior to their fatal overdose. A similar proportion **were employed in each of the 5 years preceding their overdose death**, many of them in the construction industry.

INDUSTRY OF LAST MAIN JOB IN THE 5 YEARS PRIOR TO DEATH



While 40% of decedents did not receive any social assistance in the 5 years prior to death, 31% of decedents in British Columbia and 28% in Surrey **received social assistance benefits every year**.

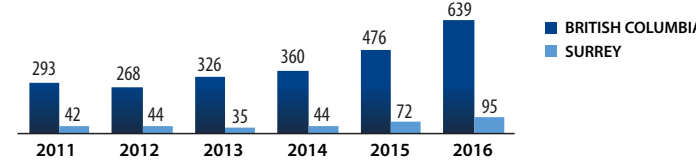
NUMBER OF YEARS OF RECEIVING SOCIAL ASSISTANCE BENEFITS IN THE 5 YEARS PRIOR TO DEATH



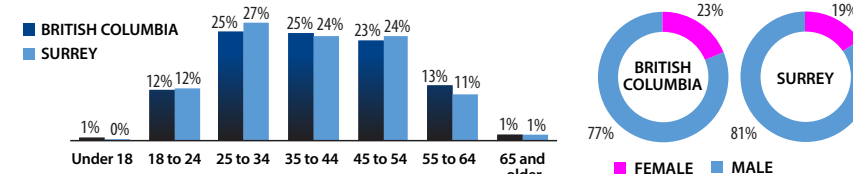
In 2016, British Columbia's provincial health officer declared a public health emergency in response to a rise in illicit drug overdoses and related deaths. Between 2011 and 2016 there were **2,362 confirmed illicit drug overdose deaths** in British Columbia and 332 in Surrey alone.

Statistics Canada, in partnership with the BC Coroners Service, City of Surrey, Surrey Fire Service, Surrey RCMP Detachment, Fraser Health Authority, BC Stats, BC Centre for Disease Control, BC Ministry of Health and Public Safety Canada, is undertaking a project to assess the socio-economic determinants of the drug overdose crisis by leveraging and integrating various administrative databases. The first focus of analysis involves the integration of illicit drug overdose deaths with **employment and social assistance data, health and hospitalization records, and criminal justice system contacts.**

NUMBER OF ILLICIT DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS THAT WERE INTEGRATED WITH STATISTICS CANADA ADMINISTRATIVE DATA HOLDINGS, BRITISH COLUMBIA AND SURREY, 2011 TO 2016



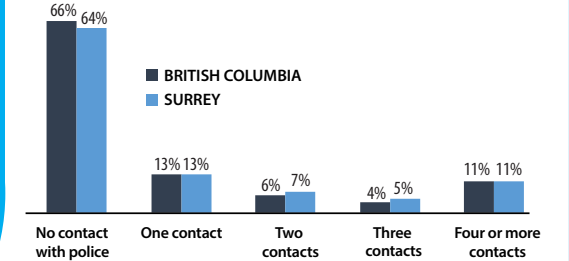
DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF DECEDENTS, BRITISH COLUMBIA AND SURREY



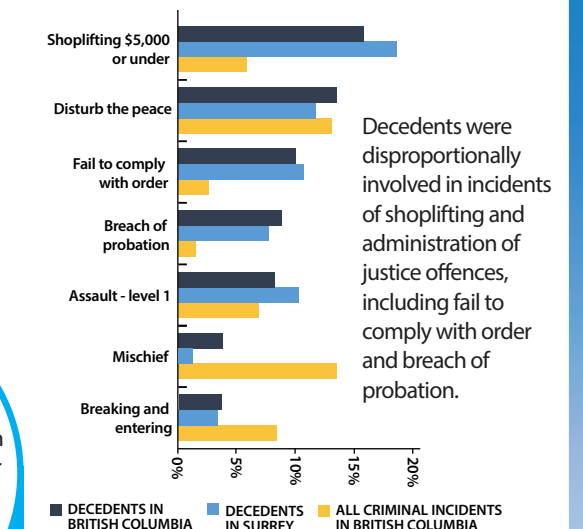
While the majority of decedents did not have a contact with police, 34% of decedents in British Columbia (and 36% of decedents in Surrey) were an accused in a criminal incident in the 24 months preceding their fatal overdose. Further, 11% of individuals who fatally overdosed in British Columbia and Surrey had four or more contacts with the police in the 24 months preceding their death.

### Contact with Police

FREQUENCY OF CONTACT WITH THE POLICE IN THE 24 MONTHS PRIOR TO DEATH



REASONS FOR CONTACT WITH THE POLICE IN THE 24 MONTHS PRIOR TO DEATH



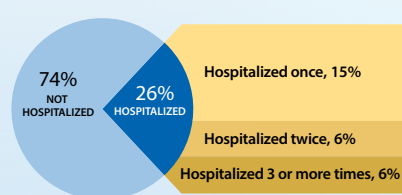
Decedents were disproportionately involved in incidents of shoplifting and administration of justice offences, including fail to comply with order and breach of probation.

PROPORTION OF DECEDENTS WITH A POLICE CONTACT, BY TIME ELAPSED BETWEEN THEIR LAST POLICE CONTACT AND FATAL OVERDOSE, CUMULATIVE PERCENT

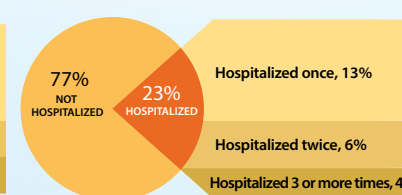
Time period prior to the fatal overdose	British Columbia	Surrey
1 month prior to fatal overdose	16%	10%
3 months prior to fatal overdose	33%	24%
6 months prior to fatal overdose	52%	47%
12 months prior to fatal overdose	74%	75%
18 months prior to fatal overdose	89%	89%
24 months prior to fatal overdose	100%	100%

### Hospitalizations and Emergency Department Visits

HOSPITALIZATIONS IN THE 12 MONTHS PRIOR TO DEATH, BRITISH COLUMBIA

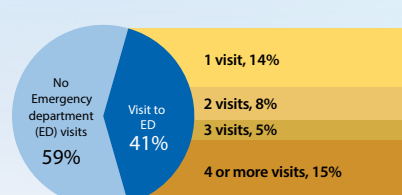


HOSPITALIZATIONS IN THE 12 MONTHS PRIOR TO DEATH, SURREY

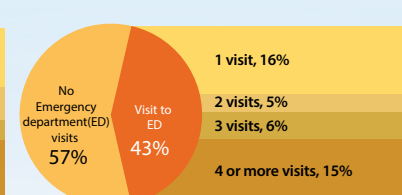


Approximately one quarter of decedents were hospitalized in the 12 months prior to death. The majority of those who were hospitalized were hospitalized only once during that year.

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS IN THE 12 MONTHS PRIOR TO DEATH, BRITISH COLUMBIA

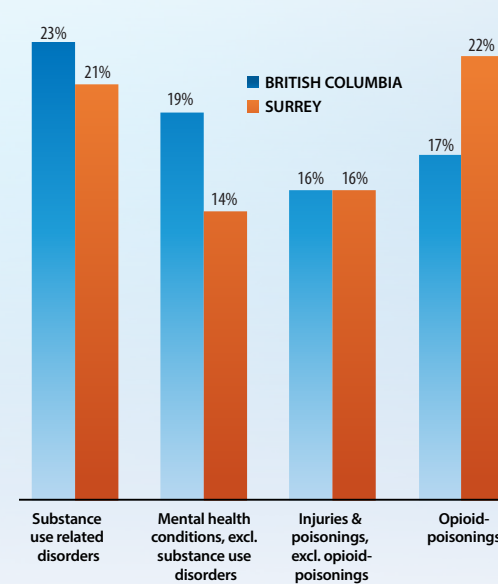


EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS IN THE 12 MONTHS PRIOR TO DEATH, SURREY



Approximately 40% of decedents visited the emergency department in the 12 months prior to death. Multiple visits to an emergency department were not uncommon.

MAIN REASON FOR HOSPITALIZATIONS IN THE 12 MONTHS PRIOR TO DEATH



Of those decedents that had a contact with police, approximately one-third in British Columbia (33%) and one-quarter in Surrey (24%) had a formal contact with police in the 3 months prior to their fatal overdose.